



News Release

Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture
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USDA TO COLLECT 2010 COUNTY-LEVEL CROP PRODUCTION NUMBERS

Little Rock, Arkansas – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is preparing to contact producers nationwide to gather county-level crop production statistics. With the extreme growing conditions that Arkansas farmers experienced this past summer, it's highly important for them to respond to the County Agricultural Production Survey to help to determine the extent the environment impacted this year's production.

"The County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) is the largest annual survey conducted by NASS," explained Becky Cross, director of the NASS Arkansas Field Office. "This survey is the basis for the official USDA county-level estimates of production and harvested acres of all major agricultural commodities in the United States. CAPS data will benefit farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help the USDA to evaluate and administer vital farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, insurance and loan programs. It will also aid the USDA's Risk Management Agency in administering the Federal Crop Insurance Program. The data are used by the USDA's Farm Service Agency and the Arkansas Agriculture Department to administer disaster assistance programs, and businesses will use these reports when determining where to locate processing plants and other facilities," added Cross.

From the beginning of November through mid-January next year, NASS will contact selected Arkansas producers by mail, telephone, or in person and ask them to provide information on their 2010 production of corn, cotton, oats, rice, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then released in a series of USDA reports, from mid-February through early June.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential, by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Cross.

All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Arkansas Field Office at (800) 327-2970.

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